



California State Fire Marshal **CODE INTERPRETATION**

Date Issued	06-08-04	Interpretation #	04-024
Topic	Smoke Alarms		
Code Section(s)	§310.9.1, California Building Code (2001)		
Requested by	Chuck Daleo The Code Consultancy PO Box 5374 Hacienda Heights, CA 91745-0374		

1. Please clarify the intent of the change from “detectors” in the Uniform Building Code to “alarms” in the California Building Code.

The terminology change from *smoke detector*” to *smoke alarm* was required for correlation with the 1999 edition of NFPA 72, National Fire Code. A *smoke alarm* is a self-contained device that incorporates a smoke sensor, control components, power supply and an alarm-sounding appliance. A *smoke detector* is a smoke-sensing initiation device that is required to be interconnected to a fire alarm control unit.

2. Please clarify the exceptions to Section 310.9.1.1 of the California Building Code.

The intent of the Exception to Section 310.9.1.1 is to allow:

- A. Dwellings and individual units of condominiums to install an approved fire alarm system with smoke detectors in lieu of single-station or multiple-station smoke alarms where smoke detectors are installed in all locations as required for smoke alarms.
- B. Smoke detectors in individual smoke detection system to only activate the notification appliances installed in the individual guest room, suite or unit and not activate the notification appliances throughout the building.